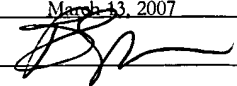




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Brendy Belony

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Yutaka YAMANAKA, et al.

Filed : March 9, 2004

For : OPTICAL DISK MEDIUM...

Serial Number : 10/796,579

March 13, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

Attached is a Japanese Office Action mailed January 31, 2007, with partial translation, from corresponding Japanese Application 2004-024519.

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, thus no fee is due.

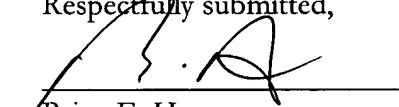
The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application

to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Docket No.: NECG 21.055

1449/PTO		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Application No. : 10/796,579	
				Filing Date : March 9, 2004	
				First Named Inventor : Y. YAMANAKA	
				Group Art Unit :	
				Examiner Name :	
				Attorney Docket No. : NECG 21.055	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		6,181,657		KURODA ET AL.	01-30-2001	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		11-86310		JP	SONY CORP	03-30-1999	*, **
		2002-288859		JP	TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO	10-04-2002	*, **
		9-17029		JP	PIONEER ELECTRONIC CORP	01-17-1997	*, **, ***
		2001-67689		JP	VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN	03-16-2001	*, **

***Mentioned in the Japanese Office Action mailed January 31, 2007, from corresponding Japanese Application 2004-024519.**
**** English Abstract and/or translation attached**
***** Corresponds to U.S. Patent 6,181,657**

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
		Japanese Office Action mailed January 31, 2007, from corresponding Japanese Application 2004-024519.	X (Partial)

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of Information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.